

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Notice of Public Meeting and Public Comment for a TMDL Implementation Plan The Gulf, Mattawoman, Barlow, Jacobus, and Hungars Creeks Northampton County, VA

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will host a public meeting on a water quality study for The Gulf, Mattawoman, Barlow, Jacobus, and Hungars Creeks in Northampton County, VA on **January 20, 2015**.

The meeting will start at **5:30 p.m.** at the **Barrier Island Center** located at **7295 Young Street, Machipongo, VA 23405**. In the case of inclement weather, the meeting will be moved to January 22, 2015 at 5:30 pm in the Northampton Board Room located on the 2nd floor of the Administration Building (16404 Courthouse Road) in Eastville, VA. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and discuss the study with interested local community members and local government.

The waters listed for this study were identified in Virginia's Water Quality Assessment Integrated Report as impaired for not supporting the fecal coliform criteria for shellfish waters. The impairments are based on water quality monitoring data reports of sufficient exceedances of Virginia's water quality standard for bacteria.

The meeting will review the final Implementation Plan for the impaired waters. The Implementation Plan (IP) is developed to provide a clean-up plan that will lead to attainment of the water quality standards. Public participation and stakeholder involvement are necessary in order to develop an effective and reasonable IP.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report and subsequent Water Quality Assessment Reports. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, pollutant levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount. The TMDL report for The Gulf, which was approved by EPA on September 20, 2007, can be found at:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/portals/0/DEQ/Water/TMDL/apptmdls/shellfish/thegulf.pdf>. The TMDL report for Mattawoman Creek, which was approved by EPA on May 6, 2010, can be found at:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/portals/0/DEQ/Water/TMDL/apptmdls/baycoast/mattawoman.pdf>.

The TMDL report for Barlow and Jacobus Creeks, which was approved by EPA on March 17, 2009, can be found at:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/portals/0/DEQ/Water/TMDL/apptmdls/shellfish/barlowjacob.pdf>. The TMDL report for Hungars Creek, which was approved by EPA on April 30, 2008, can be found at: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/portals/0/DEQ/Water/TMDL/apptmdls/shellfish/hungar.pdf>.

The public comment period on materials presented at this meeting will extend from January 20, 2015 to February 20, 2015. For additional information or to submit comments, contact Dana Gonzalez at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Tidewater Regional Office, 5636 Southern Blvd, Virginia Beach VA 23462, by phone (757) 518-2137 or e-mail dana.gonzalez@deq.virginia.gov.

* Additional information is also available on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.